

<b>Notice of Allowability</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	09/393,724	MEADE ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Douglas Q. Tran	2624	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment on 9/16/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-3 and 5-22.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 10 September 1999 and 24 October 2002 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
    - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)            |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                               |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material          | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance   |
|   | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____.   |

*Tran*

***Allowable Subject Matter***

1. Claims 1-3, and 5-22 are allowed.

Claims 1, 10, 16, and 21-22 are independent claims.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

**As to claim 1, 21-22**, the present invention from the application discloses a structure of an image forming device (or a hard copy output device) in which a tracking apparatus provided on that device having “memory coupled with the processing circuitry and operative to store a data file containing user information, output job information, and usage information comprising total page area used and toner used to cover the total page area used; wherein the tracking apparatus is configured to implement hybrid pull-push data gathering of transaction details from the image forming device including consumable usage information”.

**As to claim 10**, the present invention from the application discloses a the present invention from the application discloses a structure of a hard copy output device in which a tracking apparatus provided on that device having “memory coupled with the processing circuitry and operative to store a data file containing the LAN data packets, which are received from the client computer over the LAN that identity a user and a print job, and consumable usage information actual toner usage” and “ the tracking apparatus is configured to implement hybrid pull-push data gathering of transaction details including consumable usage information from the hard copy output device or each of the hard copy output devices in LAN”.

**As to claim 16**, the present invention from the application discloses a method of accounting for consumable for an image forming device, including steps of “storing the consumable usage data, which is determined by the step of determining including toner usage and page count delivered as output by the image forming device on a print job by print job basis, in the memory of the image forming device in the form of a device data file including user information and usage information; and obtaining transaction details and consumable usage information from the image forming device using a hybrid pull push data gathering scheme to transfer information with the device data file”.

The closest prior art such as Maniwa (US Patent No. 5,933, 584) discloses a print server has a function to accumulate data on a size and a number of sheets of paper used by each user and build up the data up to a database as a file; and Davidson, Jr. et al. (US Patent No. 6,025,925) teaches the job accounting information is provided to the host computer. However, the combination of Maniwa and Davidson, including an updated electronic text search, fails to anticipate or render the above underlined limitations from claims 1, 10, 16, 21-22 obvious.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Art Unit: 2624

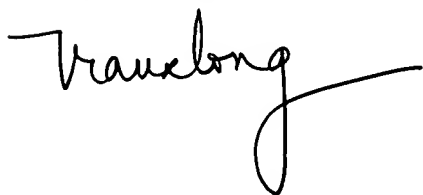
***Contact information***

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Douglas Q. Tran whose telephone number is (703) 305-4857 or E-mail address is Douglas.tran@uspto.gov.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4700.

Douglas Q. Tran

Jan. 14, 2005

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tran Douglas", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.